AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A user interface method for executing one or more operations in a computer for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the user interface method comprising the steps of:

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of a current object;

displaying in a map pane a K-map indicating objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including content related to a selected K-map object;

displaying in a preview pane contents associated with a preview object selected from the K-map, wherein the document pane, map pane, and preview pane are distinct display areas that are displayed simultaneously on a single display device;

receiving a user input;

updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of the current object identity, the preview object identity, and a K-map parameter; and

updating the K-map conditional upon the updating of a K-map parameter.

2. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map view selector based upon the received user input to correspond to a node view; and

the step of displaying in a map pane the K-map includes displaying a non-hierarchal node view of the K-map.

3. (Original) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map class selector value based upon the received user input; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value.

4. (Original) The user interface method as set forth in claim **3**, wherein:

the step of updating a K-map class selector value includes updating the K-map selector value to correspond to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input.

5. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map scope based upon the received user input; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including content related to the K-map object and having a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object within the updated K-map scope.

6. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein:

the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of an updated current object identity from the user through the K-map pane, the updated current object identity being one of the objects indicated in the map pane;

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of the current object identity, the preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map object to correspond with the updated current object; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including content related to the updated current object.

7. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of an updated preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane, the selected object identity being one of the objects indicated in the map pane, the method further comprising:

displaying in the preview pane contents associated with the updated preview object without changing the displaying in the document panel.

8. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **1**, wherein:

the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane;

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map object to correspond with the received text entry; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including content related to the selected text.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) An apparatus for executing one or more operations in a computer for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the apparatus comprising:

a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores the plurality of data objects; and

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for:

receiving a user input,

updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter,

updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter,

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of the current object,

displaying in a map pane the K-map, and

displaying in a preview pane contents associated with the preview object.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map view selector based upon the received user input, the K-map view selector having at least a node view selection option and a tree view selection option; and

the step of displaying in a map pane the K-map includes selectively displaying one of a tree view and a node view of the K-map based upon the setting of the K-map view selector.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map class selector value based upon the received user input, the class selector including at least a people class selection option, a places class selection option, and a things class selection option; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating a K-map scope based upon the received user input; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects within the K-map scope.

15. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the current object identity from the user through the K-map pane; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the current object.

16. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane.

17. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, wherein:

the step of receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry supplied through user highlighting of text in the document display pane;

the step of updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating an object K-map parameter to correspond with the received text entry; and

the step of updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the selected text.

18. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim **10**, further including:

simultaneously displaying the document pane, the map pane, and the preview pane on a single display device.

19. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for executing an operation to perform a user interface method for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a knowledge portal catalog cataloging data objects based on content, the knowledge portal contextually linking the objects based on document content;

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of a current object;

constructing a K-map identifying related objects having content related to a K-map object as measured by a strength of relationship between the related object and the K-map object;

displaying in a map pane the K-map; and

displaying in a preview pane contents associated with a preview object selected from the related objects, the preview pane being displayed simultaneously with the document pane and the map pane.

20. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein:

the step of displaying in a map pane the K-map includes displaying a node view of the K-map limited to related objects having a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object greater than a specified value.

21. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein:

the displayed K-map includes objects corresponding to a user-selectable K-map class selector value.

22. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **21**, wherein:

the K-map selector value corresponds to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a selection of an updated current object identity from the user through the K-map pane;

constructing an updated K-map that includes objects related to the updated current object;

displaying the updated current object in the document pane; and

displaying the updated K-map in the map pane.

25. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a selection of the preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane.

26. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a text entry supplied through user highlighting of text in the document display pane; and

updating the K-map to include objects related to the selected text.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A user interface for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects and contextually links the objects based on document content, the user interface comprising:

a means for receiving a user input;

a K-map processor for calculating a K-map corresponding to a current object and a set of K-map parameters, the K-map identifying objects indicated by a catalog of the knowledge portal as having content related to the current object;

a current object display pane for displaying at least a portion of the current object;

a K-map display pane for displaying the K-map; and

a preview pane different from the current object display pane for displaying contents corresponding to a preview object.

29. (Previously presented) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the K-map display pane displays the K-map in a non-hierarchal node view.

30. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the set of K-map parameters includes a class parameter; and

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects corresponding to the class parameter.

31. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **30**, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the class parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical class input dialog.

32. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **30**, wherein:

the class parameter selectively takes values including a people class value, a places class value, and a things class value.

33. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the set of K-map parameters includes a scope parameter; and

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects whose relationship to the current object falls within the scope parameter value.

34. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **33**, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the scope parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical scope input dialog.

35. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **34**, wherein the graphical scope input dialog is a slider bar.

36. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the current object is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating within the K-map display pane.

37. (Previously presented) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the preview object is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating within the K-map display pane, the updating of the preview object not affecting the current object display pane.

38. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **28**, wherein:

the set of K-map parameters includes an object parameter, said object parameter being selectively updateable by the user; and

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects related to the object corresponding to the object parameter.

39. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim **38**, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the document display pane whereby the user selectively updates the object parameter by selecting text corresponding thereto from the contents of the document display pane.

40. (Previously presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim **7**, wherein the preview pane contents associated with the updated preview object and displayed in the preview pane are metadata stored in the knowledge portal rather than in the preview object itself.

41. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **19**, wherein the method further includes:

updating the K-map object to correspond to one of a group consisting of: (i) a double-clicked K-map entry, (ii) text in the document pane that is highlighted by a user, and (iii) one or more search terms entered by a user; and

updating the displayed K-map to identify at least (i) related objects having content related to the updated K-map object, and (ii) a measure of a strength of relationship between each related object and the updated K-map object.